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ONE MARYLAND

Celebrating Earth Day & End of Session News from Annapolis

April 2014



A Message from the Governor

April 1 marked the beginning of [April Environmental Education Month in Maryland](#) - and with Earth Day coming up on April 22, Maryland has much to celebrate.

Over the course of the O'Malley-Brown Administration, we've worked to make the environment a priority for our state. Maryland became the first state in the nation to adopt environmental literacy graduation requirements, which now serve as a key component of our State's curriculum. We also launched the Explore and Restore Your SchoolShed program, which encourages and enables schools to study and care for their local streams.

Together, we have protected more than 150,000 acres of land - larger than the total land area of Calvert County - and we supported more than 1,300 local recreational projects. We accomplished these results while adopting new, effective policies to advance and improve our overall environmental protection efforts. Since 2009, we've used our GreenPrint evaluation system to score and select potential preservation projects objectively for the first time, based on their ecological value - something no other state has done.

This year, we fought to expand the State's Wildlands Preservation system by 50 percent in nine counties, adding an additional 22,000 acres of protected land that supports ecosystems, plants and animals. And since establishing the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund in 2007, we've invested nearly \$160 million in operational funds and nearly \$100 million in capital funds to pollution control projects that accelerate our bay restoration efforts.

Remember this Earth Day and every day to reduce, reuse and recycle.



AROUND MARYLAND

[Sugarloaf Craft Festival](#)

April 25- 27 in Timonium

Come to the annual festival to see the nation's most talented artisans' work. Enjoy live music, interactive demonstrations, and specialty gourmet foods with your family! Admission: \$10/adults and free for children

[Annapolis Spring Sailboat Show](#)

Apr 25- 27 in Annapolis

Shop for the latest in boat equipment, win door prizes or contests! \$12 for adults and children are free.

[WineFest](#)

April 26-27 in St. Michaels

Come join the streetscape festival where hundreds of wines will be available to taste and be purchased. \$45.00 per person at this wine tasting event.

For more events around Maryland, visit the [Maryland Tourism Office](#) and follow [@TravelMD](#) on Twitter.



[How will you celebrate spring in Maryland?](#)



MARYLAND TWEETS

 Follow us on Twitter!

[@governoromalley](#): Thank you to all the young women who came to Annapolis today to share their policy ideas [#MDWomenLead](#) <http://t.co>

At the State, our goal is to recycle 30% of the waste we create. We're doing this through composting food and increasing our recycling bins around State facilities. Join us and show your support for Earth Day and the environment by doing your part to go green. [Plant a tree](#), join a project that supports the Chesapeake Bay, or organize a local cleanup with your family and friends. Every little bit counts.

Have a green and happy Earth Day!

Thank you,
Governor O'Malley

What's happening?



Protecting Domestic Violence Victims and Children

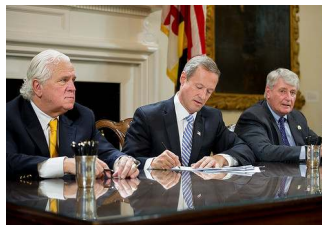
The General Assembly passed the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's package](#) of public safety bills this year, including a bill that enhances the penalty for committing a crime of violence in the presence of a child. Together, SB 337, HB 307, and HB 309 combat domestic violence in Maryland.

Governor O'Malley has stated that "Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable home — because of this bill, we'll hold more abusers accountable while ensuring stable healthy homes for Maryland children."



Expanding Pre-Kindergarten

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown expanded pre-kindergarten to 1,600 more children across Maryland and laid the groundwork for a further statewide expansion in coming years.



The Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Act of 2014 expands high-quality pre-kindergarten to more families across our State through a competitive grant program called the Pre-kindergarten Expansion Grant Program and Fund. With \$4.3 million included in the FY15 budget to help expand and start programs across the State, the legislation is expected to support half-day or full-day kindergarten for approximately 1,600 children statewide.



Ensuring the Dignity of All Marylanders

This year, the General Assembly passed SB 212 - The Fairness for All Marylanders Act of 2014. Maryland now joins 17 states and the District of Columbia in banning gender identity discrimination. This development follows Maryland's passage of civil marriage equality in 2012.

Following the passage of SB 212, Governor O'Malley stated, "We're proud to stand with these leaders, the LGBT community, and other allies to complete this major piece of unfinished business — ensuring that everyone is protected from discrimination under the law. I look forward to signing this bill."



Marylanders on the Move: Ameena Ruffin & Korey Johnson

[/xCGi2SdiFn](#)

@MDBiz : Maryland's leadership in #bio is creating new opportunity, products and investment. <http://ow.ly/3iH1Ou>.

@governoromalley: Can't wait to join you MT @UMSenior Just announced #UMD Spring Commencement speaker <http://t.co/f1INAxWCQt>

@accessdnr: Cool pic alert! Past DNR photo contest entry, liked & shared by 100's on our AccessDNR [Facebook page](#). #bluecrab <http://t.co/pi7kOk15ED>

@travelmd: Welcome to Birdland! Happy Opening Day! <http://t.co/rCRJJUbPCYy>

Hashtag of the Month: This month, use [#RaisetheWage](#) to help all Marylanders thrive.

Ameena Ruffin and Korey Johnson from Towson University won the Cross Examination Debate Association's (CEDA) national championship, defeating 170 other nationwide teams.



Final round arguments focused on police brutality, the prison-industrial complex, structural poverty concerns, and violence against African Americans in the U.S. Following their win, Johnson and Ruffin called the win "surreal," and credited many hours they spent in debate practice, reading books, and other publications to draft their arguments. Congratulations Ameena and Korey!

Innovation Maryland: STEM Education

On April 3, [Governor O'Malley joined students](#) from UMBC and UMUC for a video chat to discuss the importance of STEM education for economic growth in Maryland. During the video chat, Governor O'Malley highlighted Maryland's progress in reaching its goal of increasing STEM graduates. As of 2013, we have awarded 37% more STEM degrees in our State, meaning that Maryland is on track to meet its ambitious goal of awarding 40% more STEM degrees by 2015.



Maryland continues to be a leader in STEM education, having been the first state in the nation to set specific STEM education standards that tell teachers not just what STEM is, but how to teach the subjects. A STEM education is critical to ensuring that students can compete for and obtain jobs in Maryland where there is a growing demand for skilled workers to fill federal research laboratories and cybersecurity jobs.

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